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keeps on qualifying as an expert marksman it cannot be said that the kingdom of the late Theebaw is wholly at peace. It challenges curiosity, therefore, to find this French observer (he had been for four years consul at Rangoon), denominating Burma a model of colonies in his title and continuing the praise through 300 pages. He goes to lengths from which Sir James Scott, the best and most sympathetic of administrators of Burma, refrains. Except for the meed of praise, and this we find to be suspicious, the work adds nothing to recent English volumes dealing with the subject. The illustrations warrant high commendation. They are excellently executed half-tones from photographic plates by Johannès of Mandalay of magnificent clearness of definition.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The American Occupation of the Philippines, 1898-1912. By James

H. Blount. xxi and 664 pp. Map, index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1912. 9 x 6½.

Experience agrees upon the wisdom of the adage that history is not to be written during the lifetime of the participants in the events recorded. Yet that does not militate against a totally distinct order of value for works such as this. It is charged with the vivid recollection of events in their immediacy. Its judgments have spirit behind them. Judge Blount disagrees with the ground principles of Philippine administration and is wholly opposed to the terms of our occupation of the great Eastern archipelago. That comes within his own right of judgment. He will find sympathizers and equally he will find dissidents quite as earnest; but the principal thing to say about the work is that whereof he writes he knows with the intimacy of daily observation through a period of fourteen years as soldier, jurist and administrator. The problem of the great proconsuls is a hard one, remote, essentially friendless, bound never to explain but only to command; criticism of such should be replete with charity, for the critic can never know what burdens lie upon the administrator. This personal narrative of the details of Philippine administration will possess all the greater value when we connote that the author was considered by his chiefs to be among the most capable of Philippine administrators.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Arabia Petræa. Von Alois Musil. II. Edom. Topographischer Reisebericht, 2. Teil. x and 299 pp. Map, ill. III. Ethnologischer Reisebericht. xv and 550 pp. Ills., index. Kaiserl. Akad. der Wissenschaften, Vienna, 1908. 15 kronen, for 2 vols. 10 x 7.

In 1888, Charles Montagu Doughty, the eminent Scotch explorer, gave us in his "Travels in Arabia Deserta" (2 vols. Cambridge) a vivid and most scholarly description of his archæological researches in unknown Northern Arabia, making us familiar with the country and the people. These volumes by Alois Musil fittingly supplement the splendid literary results by Doughty. Musil, professor in Olmütz and a catholic priest, who first became known through his masterly work on Kusejr 'Amra, the old castle in the desert, built by a calif of the Eighth century in the territory of the ancient Moabites, gives us in these volumes a many sided description of this biblical country. His scientific education is thorough and fits him well for archæological and ethnological researches. Musil shows the same keen interest in fauna and flora that he manifests in the various Arab tribes, their institutions and their social, family, and religious life. Especially noteworthy are the chapters on the condition under which the women live. In the Arab tribes as among the Fellahin, the woman must work more and harder than the man. Among the Fellahin, the woman is very often beaten, an infliction which she has to bear as long as blood does not flow and bones are not broken, because "the flesh of the woman belongs to the husband, but her bones to her family." If she flees to her family and complains about her bad treatment, she is usually compelled to return to her husband because, otherwise, the bridal price must be refunded. The Sahari is not allowed to sell his wife or children because they do not belong to him, but to his tribe. Neither is he allowed to kill wife or children. Only the adulterous wife is he at liberty to kill. The same fate befalls the daughter who becomes a mother before mar-